

SECRET

FOR COORDINATION WITH ed State

Eichmann, A.  
20 June 60

I hear that the Argentines were at first quite riled by some harsh words in the Israeli statement to them in re the Eichmann case. The Argentines resented the reminder that they had been harboring so many Nazis. This noon, I will have lunch with the Histadrut representative here. I have a proposal to make to the Israelis:

My proposal is that Eichmann be put in the custody of the Argentine Embassy in Tel Aviv. That he be kept there. Secondly, that such transfer be considered recognition by the Israeli of Argentine sovereignty in this matter and that in the interim proceedings be taken for extradition of Eichmann from this Argentine territory to Israeli authority. I think this is valid since the territory of the Argentine legation or embassy in Tel Aviv is Argentine.

Now, of course, the question arises here where shall he be tried? If the U.N. is to act on it, it can make only one decision according to the Convention on Genocide: -- the criminal must be tried in the land where he committed the crime. Everybody in the U.N. Security Council feels uncomfortable about it.

This morning the press reports that the Polish and Soviet representation of the Security Council are agreed to back Israel. My information is different. I learned from Argentine sources that the Soviet representation has been trying to get in touch with the Argentines with a view of giving support to the Argentine position. However, I don't vouch at this point for what the Russians will do.

You see there is one angle in the whole picture which has been neglected by the U.N. observers. That angle is the following: The Israelis are not interested in revenge or in executing Eichmann. The Israelis want to stage a big show trial. Now in every show trial there must be a villain and a culprit. It is not in Israeli interests to make the Germans the villains or culprits at this time. What the Israelis want to do is to get out of Eichmann facts and names in re the role of some of the worst Nazis after 1945 in Arab countries, particularly in Egypt and Syria.

Given this fact, which I am sure sooner or later, Moscow will come to think of, I can't see the Kremlin supporting the Israelis in the Security Council. Again, I may be wrong.

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